

V. atalanta had a sub-normal season, with apparently very little local breeding, though a single larva was found in Orkney on August 25, and an imago on September 29. Single examples seen at Ipswich on January 31 and at Oare Marshes, Kent on February 24 were presumably winter survivors and, as already noted, a few were seen during the April immigration. Considerable numbers did arrive with *C. cardui* late in May, and three were seen on Walney Island, Westmorland on May 27 and 30 and a single as far north as Carrbridge in Invernesshire on June 6, but they were generally scarce in June and it was not until mid July that they became numerous, and then only near the coast. In August the species became more general and was fairly common in Northants, and other Midland counties, and continued to be so through September when one entered a light trap in Kirkcudbrightshire on September 19. Large numbers reported in October were mainly due to late influxes. In Cornwall, 31 were counted at St. Ives between October 12 and 15, and many hundred were seen coming in off the sea at Rame Head on October 20, but we had no accounts of it in November or December. Five were seen in the Isle of Man in September and a few in Co. Cork and Co. Kerry, also in September, and in Alderney it was reported as common from July 27 to August 10.

(to be continued)

Notes and Observations

HIPPARCHIA NEOMIRIS GODART (LEP.: SATYRIDAE) AT SEA LEVEL IN CORSICA. — The Corsican grayling, *Hipparchia neomiris*, is confined to Corsica, Sardinia and Elba, and according to L. G. Higgins and N. D. Riley (*A field guide to the butterflies of Britain and Europe*, Collins, 1983) it occurs on mountains at 900-1800 metres, except on Elba where it inhabits lower elevations. Between 7 and 22 September 1985 I observed butterflies around Porto, Corsica, which is on the coast at or just above sea level. Almost all were feeding from patches of flowering mints, *Mentha aquatica* and *Mentha* (?) *suaveolens*, associated with fresh-water springs, and from clumps of *Inula viscosa*, the yellow flowers of which were conspicuous along roadsides. These were the only significant sources of nectar in an otherwise desiccated landscape. The southern grayling, *Hipparchia aristaeus*, was abundant, and among them I found two *Hipparchia neomiris*, indicating that at least occasionally this species occurs at sea level in Corsica. DENIS F. OWEN, 2 Shelford Place, Headington, Oxford.